Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy. Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone 559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: November 28, 2012

Contact: Dana M. Dierkes

Phone Number: (559) 565-3131 (o), 559-679-2866 (cell)

Birding is for Everyone! Consider Participating in Ranger-Led Programs and the Upcoming Christmas Bird Count at Sequoia National Park

Birding is for everyone! Several upcoming activities at Sequoia National Park provide opportunities for children and adults to learn about how to identify birds. No experience is necessary.

Birds in Flight

Saturday, December 1, 2012, from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Sequoia National Park - Potwisha Campground Overflow Parking

Join a ranger to learn more about the "when, where, and why" of bird migration. This program will include a short talk followed by hands-on birding. Bring warm clothes, a pencil, and notepad. Binoculars will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you have them. This program is free, but the park entrance fee is required (\$20 for seven-day pass, \$30 for annual pass). *Sponsored by the National Park Service. Info:* 559-565-4212.

Birds and Their Habitat

Saturday, December 8, 2012, from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Sequoia National Park - Hospital Rock

Join a ranger to learn more about where birds live and why. This program will include a short talk followed by hands-on birding. Bring warm clothes, a pencil, and notepad. Binoculars will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you have them. This program is free, but the park entrance fee is required (\$20 for seven-day pass, \$30 for annual pass). *Sponsored by the National Park Service. Info:* 559-565-4212.

-continued on page 2-

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 15, 2012, from 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (approximate ending time, some groups may end sooner) Sequoia National Park – Foothills Visitor Center

Birding is an adventure that lasts a lifetime. With your help counting and/or identifying birds, park managers can understand the health of bird populations and be better equipped to protect them in the future. Birders of all abilities, including beginners and the young at heart, are welcome. In a daypack, please bring lunch, drinks, snacks, and binoculars and a bird identification book (if you have them). Dress appropriately for the weather and duration of the day. Be prepared to walk outside all day. Conditions will vary from easy walking on a paved surface to other walks of 5-11 miles on uneven, unpaved surfaces. Some transportation will be provided but participants should come prepared to caravan. Participants will pick a route that meets their physical abilities and interests. Each group will be led by an experienced birder. The event will happen rain or shine. *Sponsored by the Sequoia Natural History Association. Sign up at http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count or by calling 559-565-4251*.

For general information about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341. (Please note: We are experiencing some problems receiving incoming phone calls. If you have difficulty getting through on the phone, please try back again or check our website for additional information. The search box on the top right of the webpage may be helpful. We apologize for the inconvenience.)

-NPS-

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.